

## RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE

**Residential Child Care** provides high quality care and professional residential treatment for abused, neglected and dependent youths needing emergency placement, family reunification, family clarification, residential treatment, or who are at risk of training school commitment. Professional staff members serve as “teaching parents,” providing care and treatment while permanent plans are made for each child.

**The Emergency Home at Lutz Cottage** is an emergency, short-term care facility for abused, neglected or dependent girls ages 10-17. It served 29 youths in 2002-2003.

**Andrea’s Place** and **Blevins Cottage** each serves youth in foster care who need more structured group care. Andrea’s Place served 10 boys ages 12-17. Blevins Cottage served 18 girls ages 12-17.

**Corner House I at Stanton Cottage** and **Corner House II** are Catawba County’s alternatives to training school, providing therapeutic care for discipline and delinquency problems. This program is a resource for the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ). Corner House I at Stanton Cottage houses females ages 12-17 and served 14 youths in 2002-2003. Corner House II, which houses males ages 12-17, served 12 youths during that same period.

## FINALLY IT ALL PAID OFF

*“I used to think that Social Services was an agency that was in the business of taking your kids. Now I understand that without their help, I would not have a safe home to provide for my children.”*

I was born in Pittsburgh in 1972. My parents were divorced. My mother worked all the time and I only saw my father every other weekend. I grew up around substance abuse and domestic violence, and started using drugs and alcohol when I was 18 and moved out of my home.

I eventually moved to North Carolina in 1995. By then I had three children and relied on public services for assistance because I didn’t always have a job.

By 1999, I had three failed marriages, all filled with the same cycle of physical and emotional abuse. After moving my children to Florida in 1999 for about



six months, we ended up back in North Carolina, but there were still problems. I was not getting along with my family and I felt very alone. All I had were a few “friends” and I was still using marijuana. I felt bad partly because my children were being exposed to my poor choices and domestic violence. No matter where I turned, I found myself in the same type of destructive relationships.

In 2002, my children were taken into Catawba County DSS custody for neglect. The children were placed in a foster home. Then with their behaviors becoming more severe, they were placed into Therapeutic Foster Care. I began to see changes in the children; they began to express themselves and work out their feelings about their past experiences.

I hit rock bottom. I was failing drug tests and didn’t seem serious about getting my children back. I blamed the system for my problems and didn’t see my case plan as a way to get out of the hole I was in.

Finally with the help of my social worker and support from others, my life began to change. I started going to Narcotics Anonymous to get clean and meet positive people. I began therapy with Mental Health to address my substance abuse and domestic violence issues. And I began to repair the damaged relationships with my parents and sister. I got a job and a car that is now paid for. And I went to court and proved to the judge, DSS and the Guardian ad Litem that I was a capable mother who could take care of her children and remain sober.

Nothing changed for me until I took responsibility for my behaviors and allowed myself to get help. I had to realize that I was responsible for all that was happening and stop blaming others.

Finally it all paid off when I was able to get my children back into my home. I still attend NA meetings and receive therapy at Mental Health—myself and with my children. My family is supportive and I have positive, new friends. I used to think that Social Services was an agency that was in the business of taking your kids. Now I understand that without their help, I would not have a safe home to provide for my children.

—A client reunified with her children

*Celebrating  
Success*